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**A.P.I.**  
**ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL ITALIANISTS**  
**ASSOCIAZIONE PROFESSORI D'ITALIANO**

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**CALL FOR PAPERS**  
**XXII API INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE**

**26/27 September, 2013**  
**Italian - School of Arts**  
**College of Humanities**  
**University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa (UKZN)**

***FINIS TERRAE/ FINIS MUNDI***

Apocalypse and the End of the World

Keynote speakers: Cheikh Tidiane Gaye                      Michele Mari

When the Lamb opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature say, "Come and see!" I looked and there before me was a pale horse! Its rider was named Death, and Hades was following close behind him. They were given power over a fourth of the earth to kill by sword, famine, and plague, and by the wild beasts of the earth.

*Revelation 6:7-8*

Of all the books in the Bible, it is probable that none has fired the Western imagination more than the Book of Revelation which for centuries has had scholars debating the apocalyptic symbolism of the four horsemen. Complex and ambiguous, spanning thousands of years and extending across cultures, the notion of the apocalypse has evolved from revelatory and mystical occurrences in biblical times to its current conception. An upsurge of social, psychological, physical and environmental catastrophes for earth's inhabitants, phenomena not dissimilar to the Biblical foretelling of calamities, has produced a modern and postmodern state of angst.

This interdisciplinary conference seeks to examine images, symbols and representations of the apocalypse and the end of the world in fiction, culture and language. Literary papers from any period of history, or any social or cultural context, exploring the idea of apocalypse in Italian and related literatures will be considered. The following broad fields have been identified: LITERATURE, LANGUAGE, CULTURE (including popular culture) THEATRE and FILM.

Key words: revelation, prophecy, universal judgment, chaos, transformation, disintegration and regeneration, dissolution and dysfunction, identity and lack of identity, disorientation in space and time.

Possible topics for papers may include, but are not be limited to:

- Revelation and the Italian literary canon
- Neo Gothic and Neo Noir literature
- Perspectives on postmodernist writing techniques
- Questions of language; language use and language identity
- Milleniarism across the centuries – from Gioacchino da Fiore to Umberto Eco

Papers should be approximately 20 minutes in length and may be either in Italian or English

Please include the following information in your proposal submission:

Name

Affiliation

E mail Address

Physical Address and Phone Number

Title of Paper

Abstract (approx 250 words)

Short biographical profile

Abstracts should be sent to the attention of Lori Barausse at [italianistica.sa@gmail.com](mailto:italianistica.sa@gmail.com) All other questions should be directed to [belluscif@ukzn.ac.za](mailto:belluscif@ukzn.ac.za) (Federica Bellusci, Academic Co-ordinator, Italian Studies, School of Arts, College of Humanities, University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. Tel +27312601091/2380)

**Deadline for submission of abstracts for the conference is 15 June 2013**

Conference registration fee is **R600.00** (if paid before 1 August 2013) or **R750.00** (if paid after this date).

The Conference registration fee will include the API (Association of Professional Italianists) subscription fee for 2014, refreshments and lunch on each day of the conference.

Accepted papers will be published in API's peer-reviewed journal ISSA (Italian Studies in Southern Africa).

Our webpage [www.italianstudies.ukzn.ac.za](http://www.italianstudies.ukzn.ac.za) is in progress and will be available shortly for further information on conference, venue, accommodation etc